

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 174523
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COM/BED/OED/MEPD/JLPHILBRICK
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COM/BED/OIM/MMILES (INFO)
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-----093192 112152Z /46
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:BENC, NI

SUBJECT: LAGOS/KANO AIRCRAFT HANGER AND MAINTENANCE BASE

REF: (A) STATE 167168; (B) STATE 154130; (C) LAGOS 8372

1. BEN BERRY, PRESIDENT OF ITAC, HAS DEBRIEFED COMMERCE/
MEPD ON HIS RECENT MEETINGS WITH NIGERIAN OFFICIALS.
BERRY SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED HIS APPRECIATION FOR
ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY EMBASSY.

2. BECAUSE OF CRITICAL STATUS OF CURRENT PREQUALIFI-
CATION PROCESS AS ENVISIONED BY BERRY, HE HAS REQUESTED
THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM EMBASSY; (A)
IDENTITY OF THE KEY MEMBER OF SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL
(SMC) WHO WILL BE INVOLVED IN PREQUALIFICATION AND
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SUBSEQUENT DECISIONS REGARDING PROJECT, (B) REPRESENTA-
TIONS BY THE AMBASSADOR ON BEHALF OF ITAC CONSORTIUM
(THE ONLY KNOWN U.S. CONTENDERS) TO THAT OFFICIAL AS
WELL AS TO THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND (C) A COPY OF
THE MASTER PLAN FOR SUBJECT PROJECT.

3. BERRY DID NOT SIGNIFICANTLY MODIFY REQUESTS IN PARA 2, ABOVE, AFTER REF. C WAS COMMUNICATED TO HIM. WHILE STILL ANXIOUS TO HAVE AMBASSADOR MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE TWO NIGERIAN OFFICIALS MENTIONED ABOVE, HE AGREED THAT THESE REPRESENTATIONS SHOULD BE LOW-KEY (THOUGH CLEAR-CUT) EXPRESSIONS OF USG INTEREST. HE STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT NOW IS THE TIME FOR SUCH REPRESENTATIONS SINCE HE PERCEIVES THAT ALL FMG DECISIONMAKING COMES FROM THE TOP DOWN AND SINCE HE HAS ALREADY RECEIVED (DURING HIS LATEST VISIT TO NIGERIA) FAVORABLE VERBAL COMMENT ON ITAC PROPOSAL FROM CHAIRMAN OF HANGER WORKING COMMITTEE, AS WELL AS FROM CHAIRMAN OF CIVIL AVIATION AND PERM. SEC. FINANCE MINISTRY.

4. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF EMBASSY WOULD INITIATE REPRESENTATIONS REQUESTED BY BERRY (PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE) IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE AND TO REPORT RESULTS TO COMMERCE/MEPD. EMBASSY IS ALSO REQUESTED TO TRANSMIT TO MEPD VIA AIR POUCH ASAP COPY OF MASTER PLAN FOR BERRY.
CHRISTOPHER

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